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**Poverty and Hope – suggested texts**

*Please adapt these texts as needed for your own contexts.*

**Pew sheet**

For over four decades, the Diocese of Rochester's Poverty and Hope Appeal has tackled the causes and effects of poverty in different parts of the world. Last year, over £20,000 was raised! Thank you!

This year, churches are invited to show their generosity again in support of a range of projects, such as irrigation and sustainable farming initiatives in Tanzania and Zimbabwe – two of the diocese’s overseas companion links.

We know times are hard right now, especially with the cost of living, however, every gift made goes directly to help relieve poverty, and the fear that stalks it.

To donate or find out more visit www.rochester.anglican.org and search 'Poverty and Hope'.

OR Look out for a special fundraising service / harvest supper / event we will be holding on XXXX.

OR We look forward to welcoming Peter Kettle, volunteer coordinator of Poverty and Hope to our service on XXXX to tell us more about the Appeal and how we can get involved.

**Newsletter article**

Long version
Since 1977 Rochester Diocese has, through its annual Poverty and Hope appeal, helped meet the most basic needs that all of God’s children deserve: a safe place to live; food to eat; and a way to something better.

Every year the Appeal has invested modest amounts in life-changing work, sharing God's blessings around the world.

Thanks to the continuing generosity of many parishes and individual donors, last year the Appeal was able to distribute £20,000 through seven partners, linking the Rochester Poverty and Hope Appeal with Brazil, the Caribbean, Myanmar, Palestine, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe.

Every penny of this has gone to our seven beneficiaries: four international Christian Charities and three of the Diocese’s African Companion Dioceses.

This year, the fundraising target is £21,000, which would allow the Appeal to distribute £3,000 to each project.

Bishop Simon Burton-Jones, the Bishop of Tonbridge, has this to say in introducing this year’s appeal, which will run through to 30 April 2026:

“*Big nations have cut funding to foreign aid budgets, and it means lots of people across the world are now at risk who weren’t this time last year.  Poverty and Hope is a diocesan appeal that acts like an antidote to hang-wringing despair.  It helps to restore self-sufficiency to people who long for this.  The saying ‘every little helps’ is no cliché here - it can save individual lives.  Please give as kindly and generously as you can.”*

You can find out more about all good things happening around the world that the Appeal is helping, by going to the Rochester Diocesan website at [www.rochester.anglican.org](http://www.rochester.anglican.org) and search for Poverty and Hope.

We know that times are tough right now, so any support you can give is much appreciated. If you are a UK tax payer, please Gift Aid your donation.

You can donate by scanning the QR code in the poster or through a range of options which are given on the website.

Short version
For over four decades, the Diocese of Rochester's Poverty and Hope Appeal has tackled the causes and effects of poverty in different parts of the world. Last year, over £20,000 was raised!

This year, churches are invited to show their generosity again in support of a range of projects, across Brazil, the Caribbean, Myanmar, Palestine, as well as Tanzania, and Zimbabwe - two of the diocese’s overseas companion links.

We know times are tough right now, so any generous gift is hugely appreciated. Bishop Simon Burton-Jones, the Bishop of Tonbridge, says:

“*Big nations have cut funding to foreign aid budgets, and it means lots of people across the world are now at risk who weren’t this time last year.  Poverty and Hope is a diocesan appeal that acts like an antidote to hang-wringing despair.  It helps to restore self-sufficiency to people who long for this.  The saying ‘every little helps’ is no cliché here - it can save individual lives.  Please give as kindly and generously as you can.”*

To find out more about the various projects being supported this year, and how you can donate, visit the Rochester Diocesan website at [www.rochester.anglican.org](http://www.rochester.anglican.org) and search for Poverty and Hope.